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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

October 14, 2005

Dear Stakeholder:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is proposing a high-speed train system to provide a safe and reliable mode of travel that links major statewide metropolitan areas. The Authority, with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), has prepared a Final Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to evaluate a system that would extend from Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area in the north, through the Central Valley, to Los Angeles and San Diego in the south. The Final Program EIR/EIS analyzes a proposed high-speed train alternative and compares it with a No Project/No Action Alternative and a Modal Alternative. In the Final Program EIR/EIS, the Authority has identified and the FRA has concurred with preferred high-speed train corridors/general alignments, general station locations, recommended mitigation strategies, recommended design practices and further measures to guide development of the high-speed train system at the project level to avoid and minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. The Authority anticipates starting a next tier program EIR/EIS to separately address the choice of a corridor/general alignment from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Central Valley. Should the proposed high-speed train system be advanced, subsequent project level environmental review would consider site-specific environmental impacts.

The Final Program EIR/EIS has been made available to the public in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act prior to Authority and FRA's decisions at the conclusion of this program level environmental review. At the Authority's public Board Meeting, to be held in Sacramento on November 1, 2005 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM and continued on November 2 at 9:00 AM at the State Capitol Building, Senate Hearing Room 2040, the Authority Board is expected to consider whether to certify the EIR/EIS.

For additional information on the program EIR/EIS visit the Authority's website at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

I look forward to seeing you in Sacramento at our Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morshed".

Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director